



The attention of the public, and especially the attention of physicians, and of officers of towns, cities and villages, is invited to the following law, enacted by the legislature of 1883.

#### CHAPTER 167.

#### AN ACT for the better protection of public health.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Every town board, village board or common council of every town, village or city in this state shall hereafter, within thirty days after each annual election, organize themselves into a board of health, or shall appoint from their own members a suitable number of competent persons, who shall organize by the election of a chairman and clerk, and exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of a board of health for such town, village or city, as defined in the revised statutes, and every board of health shall, within ten days after being organized as above specified, appoint a competent and proper person who shall be, whenever the same is practicable, a reputable physician, who shall be the health physician and health officer of the town, village or city, and who shall hold office during the pleasure of the board, and until his successor shall have been duly appointed and qualified; and in case of the occurrence of a vacancy by reason of the death, resignation, removal or refusal to serve, of any such health officer, the board of health shall within twenty days thereafter, fill such vacancy by making a new appointment, as herein provided, and immediately upon the appointment of any health officer as herein provided, the board of health making the same shall transmit to the office of the state board of health the name and postoffice address of the health officer so appointed; and all health officers, appointed under the provisions of this act, shall be ex-officio members and executive officers of the boards by whom they are appointed; provided, that this section shall not apply to any town, village or city which by its act of incorporation, or amendment thereto, shall have provided for the appointment of a health board and a health officer.

SECTION 2. It shall be the duty of every health officer, appointed under the provisions of this act, or by the provisions of special charters, upon the appearance of small pox, diphtheria, scarlet fever, Asiatic cholera, or other dangerous contagious disease in the town, village or city under his supervision, immediately to investigate all the circumstances attendant upon the appearance of such disease, and to make full report thereof to the board of which he is the executive officer, and also to the state board of health, and it shall be the duty of such health officer at all times promptly to take such measures for the prevention, suppression and control of the diseases herein named, as may in his judgment be needful and proper, subject to the approval of the board of which he is a member, and it shall be the duty of every health officer to keep and transmit to his successor in office a record of all his official acts; and the salary or other compensation to be paid to every health officer appointed under the provisions of this act shall be established by the board of health by whom such officer shall be appointed.

Section 3. Whenever any such physician, residing and practicing in the

state, shall know that any person whom he shall be called upon to visit is sick with small-pox, scarlet fever, diphtheria, Asiatic cholera, or other dangerous contagious disease, he shall immediately give notice thereof to the board of health of the town, village or city in which such sick person shall be at the time, and any physician who shall refuse or neglect to give such notice for a period of forty-eight hours shall, on conviction thereof, be liable to a penalty of not less than five nor more than twenty-five dollars, for each day of such refusal or neglect after the expiration of said forty-eight hours; provided that the notices herein required may be sent by mail, or except in the case of cities may be given to or left at the residence of any member of the board of health, and notices so mailed or given within the time specified shall be deemed a compliance with the provisions of this section.

Section 4. All expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this act, or any of them, shall be paid by the town, village or city by which, or on behalf of which, such expenses shall have been incurred.

Section 5. Upon complaint made in writing under oath by any citizen of the state, before any magistrate or justice of the peace, charging the commission of an offence against any of the provisions of this act in his county, it shall be the duty of the district attorney to prosecute the offender, and all sums recovered under the provisions of this act shall be for the benefit of the school fund.

Section 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication, and all acts and parts of acts conflicting with the provisions of this act, in so far as they contravene the same, are hereby repealed.

Approved March 27, 1883. Published March 31, 1883.